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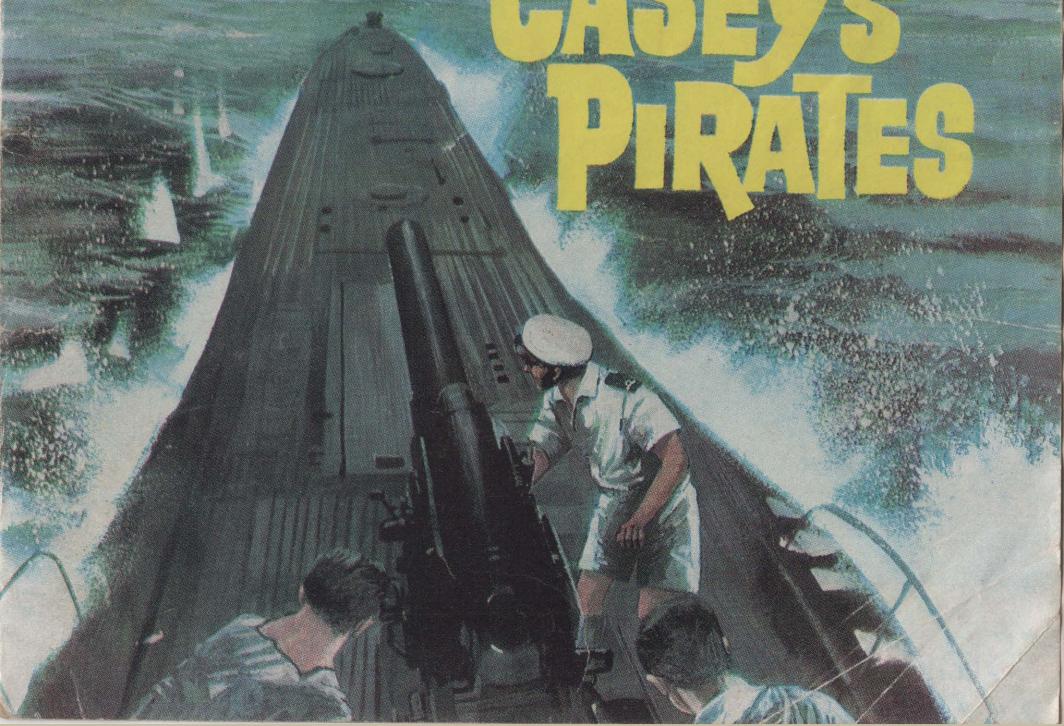
Commando

WAR STORIES IN PICTURES

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18

CASEY'S PIRATES





Stars of Soccer—Peter Cormack

CASEY'S PIRATES



"BIG HEAD" - THAT WAS WHAT THE VETERAN SAILORS CALLED SUB-LIEUTENANT ROBIN BAXTER. NOT THAT HE WAS A NASTY TYPE... HE'D JUST GOT A BIT POMPOUS AFTER AN INCIDENT EARLY IN HIS CAREER.

AND IN WAR YOU SOON LEARN THAT A BIG HEAD MAKES A BIG TARGET!

ROBIN BAXTER WAS IN DARWIN, NORTH AUSTRALIA, AWAITING HIS FIGHT FORTING.
MEANWHILE HE HAD THE JOB OF DELIVERING CONFIDENTIAL MAIL TO THE FLEET.



AND UNTIL THE JAP AIR FORCE ARRIVED, HIS LIFE HAD HARDLY BEEN EXCITING.

AS BOMBS EXPLODED IN THE HARBOUR ROBIN ABANDONED HIS MAIL DELIVERIES.
BUT AS HE DROVE BACK ALONG THE DOCKSIDE, AN EXCITED MERCHANT NAVY
OFFICER APPEARED -



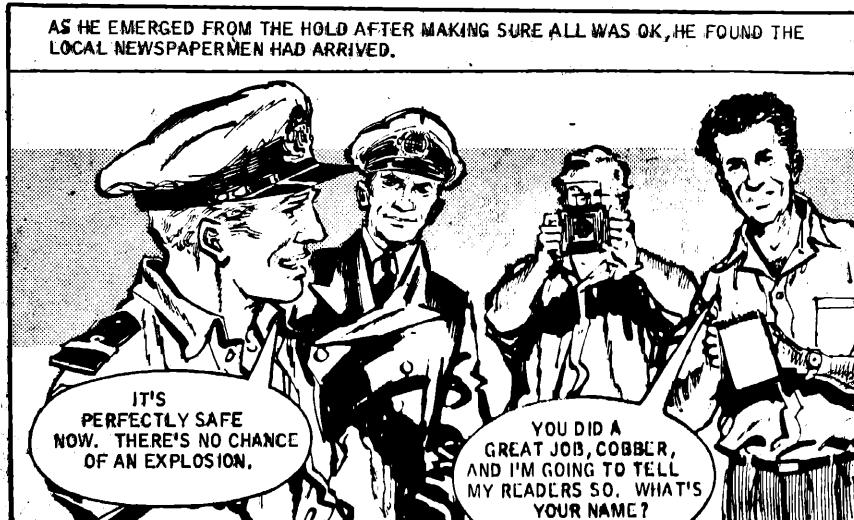
AS HE STOPPED HE WAS ALMOST HAULED OUT OF THE CAB BY THE ELDERLY MERCHANT NAVY OFFICER.



THE MERCHANT NAVY MAN HAD MISTAKEN ROBIN'S MAIL VAN FOR ONE OF THE NAVAL BOMB-DISPOSAL UNITS. A BOMB FROM THE JAP RAID HAD CRASHED INTO THE SHIP AND FAILED TO EXPLODE. ROBIN WAS HUSTLED ABOARD THE SHIP BEFORE HE COULD PROTEST –



ROBIN WAS A GAME TYPE FOND OF ADVENTURE. AND HIS LIFE HAD BEEN DULL LATELY.



THE REAL BOMB-DISPOSAL MEN ARRIVED TO FIND A CELEBRATION IN PROGRESS.



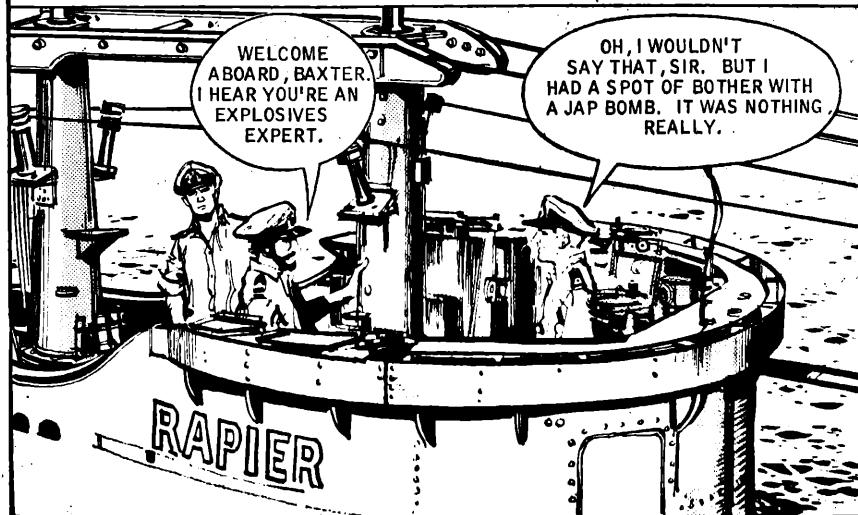
BUT AFTER READING THE LOCAL PRESS, ROBIN ALMOST BEGAN TO BELIEVE THE STORIES HIMSELF.



ROBIN'S SUDDEN FAME LASTED UNTIL H.M. SUBMARINE RAPIER RETURNED FROM PATROL.



THE RAPIER WAS COMMANDED BY LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER JOHN 'TIGER' CASEY, A MAN WITH A REPUTATION FOR SINKING JAPS.



TIGER CASEY THOUGHT ROBIN'S ESCAPE A GREAT JOKE. BUT JOE PRICE, RAPIER'S FIRST LIEUTENANT, WAS MORE UNDERSTANDING.

...AND THE
BOMB-DISPOSAL BLOKE
TOLD ME THE THING COULDN'T
HAVE EXPLODED ANYWAY.
I'D LOVE TO HAVE BEEN
THERE!

BUT BAXTER
DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS
HARMLESS, SKIPPER. I
RECKON IT TOOK GUTS FOR
THE KID TO GO AND SEE
IN THE FIRST PLACE.

BUT EVEN CASEY TIRED OF
THE STORY EVENTUALLY.

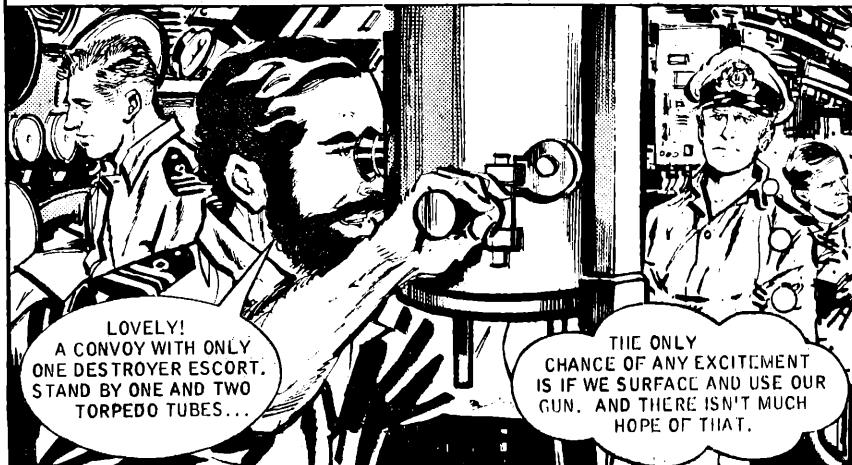
THE SOONER
WE'RE AT SEA THE
BETTER. BAXTER SPENDS
MOST OF THE TIME WITH
HIS FANS.

HE'S
CERTAINLY ENJOYING
THE PUBLICITY. STILL,
HE'S YOUNG, AND I SUPPOSE
IT'S PRETTY HARD TO
RESIST.

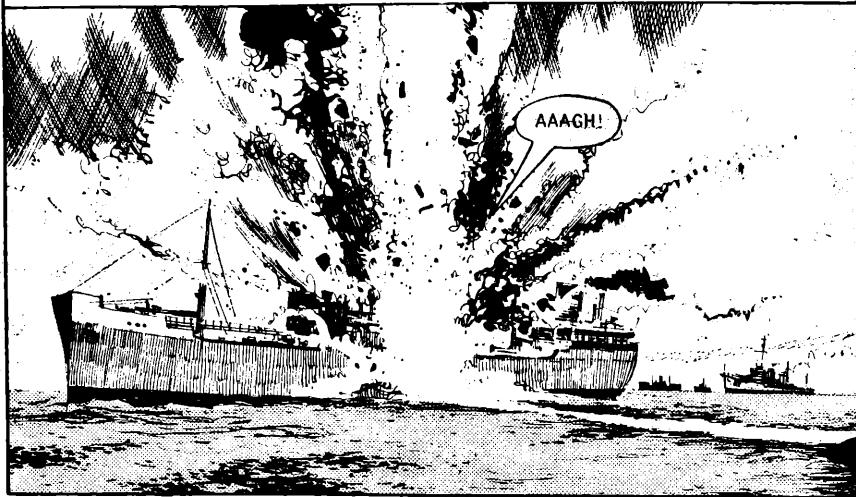
BY THE TIME THE RAPIER WAS READY TO SAIL EVEN HER CREW WERE MAKING FUN OF ROBIN.



TIGER HAD HIS USUAL LUCK, AND A FEW DAYS OUT OF DARWIN THEY SIGHTED A JAP CONVOY.



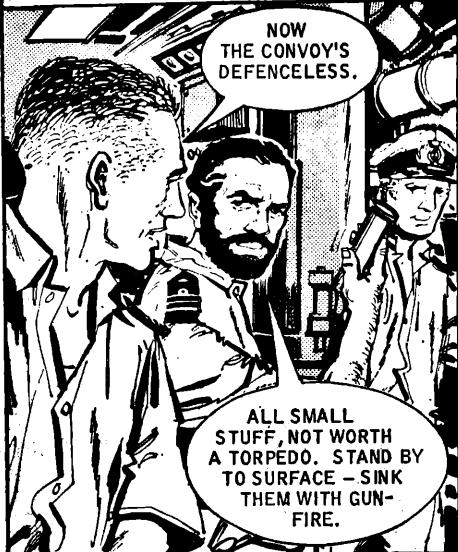
THE TORPEDOES SCORED A HIT ON THE LARGEST SHIP IN THE CONVOY, A HUGE OIL-TANKER.



AS THE ESCORTING DESTROYER ATTACKED, RAPIER DIVED DEEP – THEN ROSE ASTERN OF THE UNSUSPECTING JAPS.



A SHATTERING EXPLOSION HERALDED ANOTHER HIT.



AS GUNNERY OFFICER, ROBIN WAS TO GET AN EARLY CHANCE TO SHOW WHAT HE COULD DO.



RAPIER'S THREE-INCH GUN MADE SHORT WORK OF THE SMALLER JAP SHIPS.



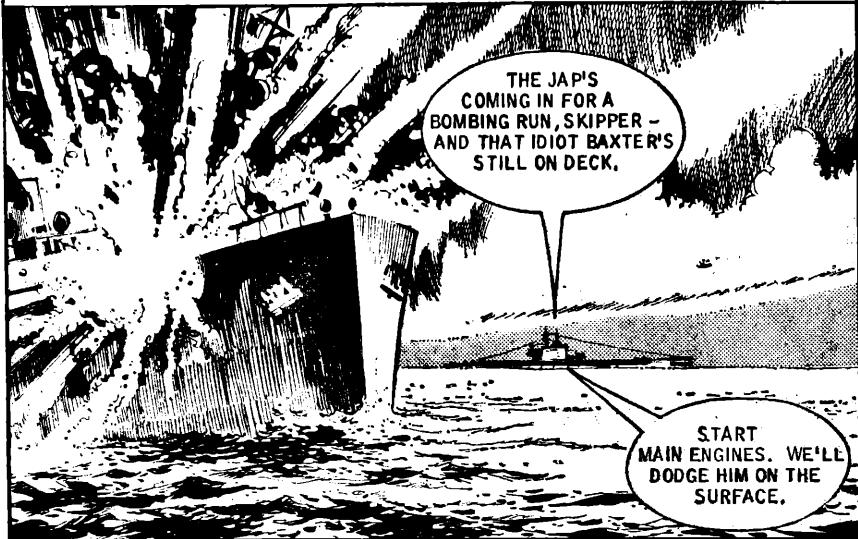
DESPITE THEIR ELATION THE CREW WERE TOO WELL-TRAINED NOT TO NOTICE A LONG JAP DIVE-BOMBER APPROACHING.



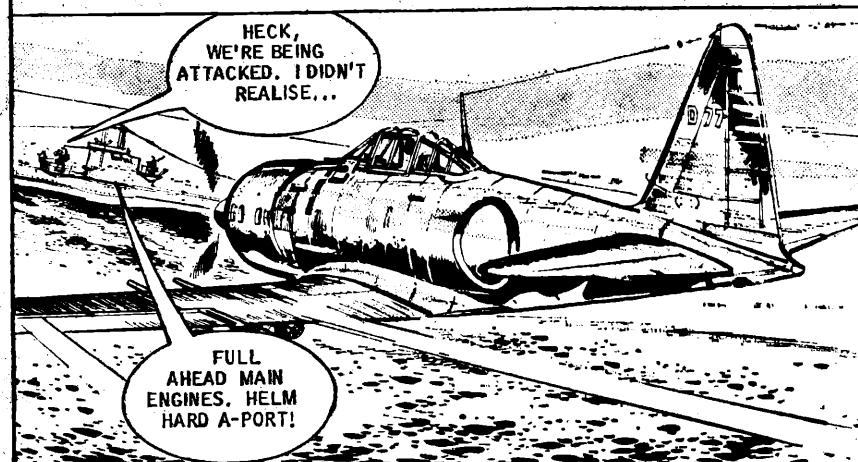
THE GUN-CREW REACTED INSTANTLY TO TIGER'S ORDER, BUT ROBIN HESITATED.



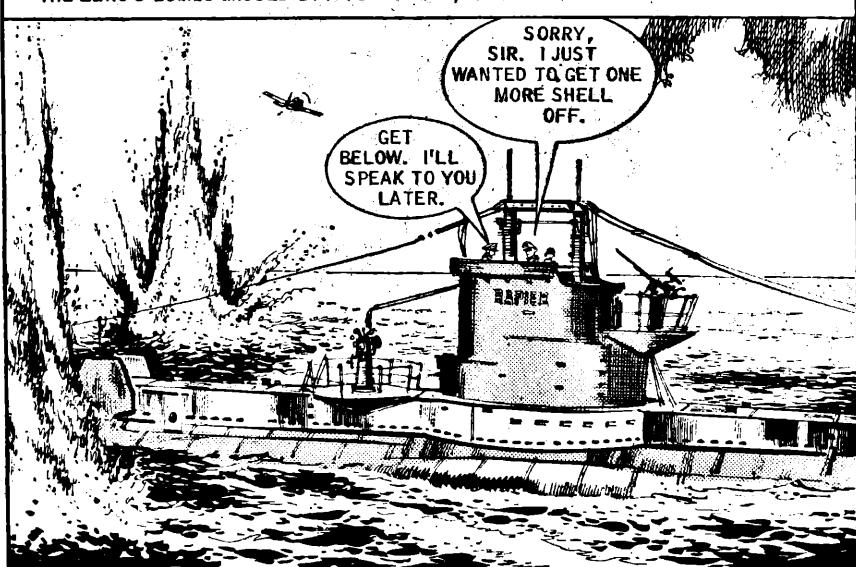
AS ROBIN FIRED THE GUN, TIGER SUMMED UP THE SITUATION AND CHANGED HIS ORDERS.



RAPIER GATHERED SPEED AS ROBIN DASHED FOR THE HATCH, REALISING HE WAS THE CAUSE OF THE CRISIS.



THE ZERO'S BOMBS MISSED BY A FEW YARDS, THANKS TO TIGER'S SKILFUL DODGING.



BY THE TIME THE AIRCRAFT RETURNED RAPIER WAS SAFELY SUBMERGED.



THE DANGER OVER, TIGER REMEMBERED ROBIN.



PRICE HAD TACTFULLY GIVEN HIS SKIPPER TIME TO COOL OFF. HE KNEW SOMETHING OF TIGER'S EXPLOSIVE TEMPER.

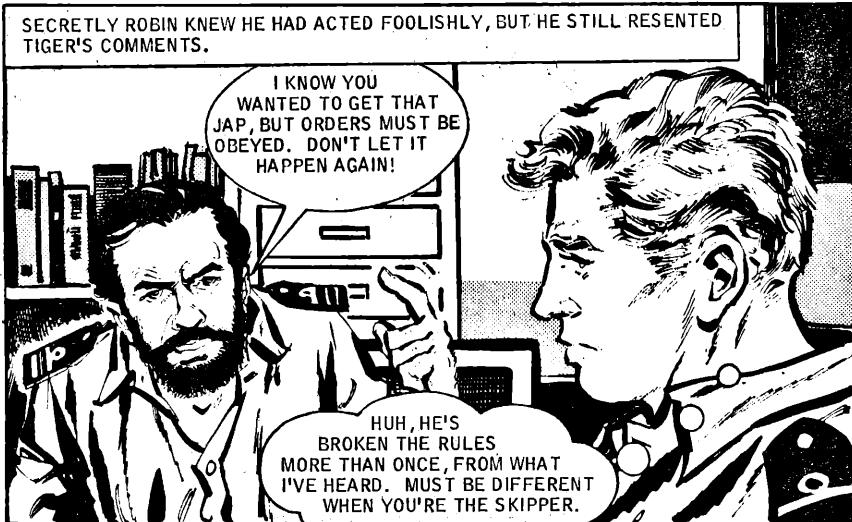
HE DID A
GOOD JOB UNTIL
WE WERE ATTACKED.
HE DESERVES ANOTHER
CHANCE.



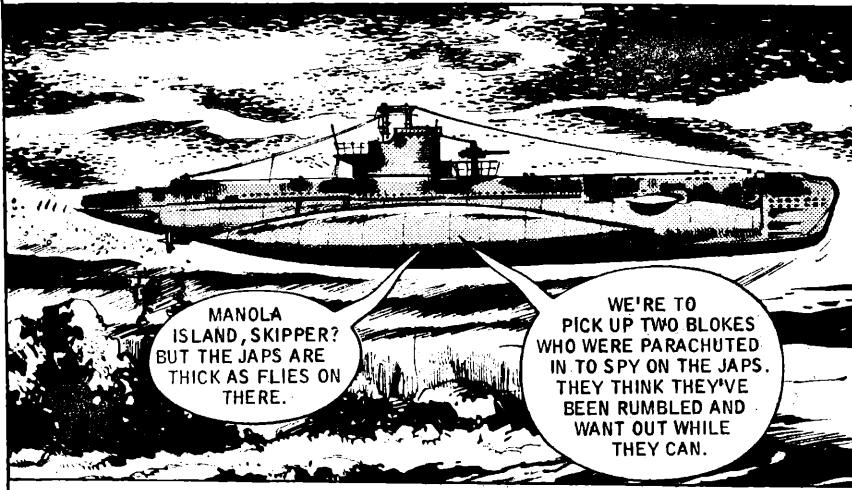
SECRETLY ROBIN KNEW HE HAD ACTED FOOLISHLY, BUT HE STILL RESENTED TIGER'S COMMENTS.

I KNOW YOU
WANTED TO GET THAT
JAP, BUT ORDERS MUST BE
OBEYED. DON'T LET IT
HAPPEN AGAIN!

HUH, HE'S
BROKEN THE RULES
MORE THAN ONCE, FROM WHAT
I'VE HEARD. MUST BE DIFFERENT
WHEN YOU'RE THE SKIPPER.



THAT NIGHT ORDERS WERE RECEIVED FROM NAVAL H.Q. THE PATROL WAS TO BE ABANDONED AND RAPIER WAS TO HEAD FOR MANOLA ISLAND.

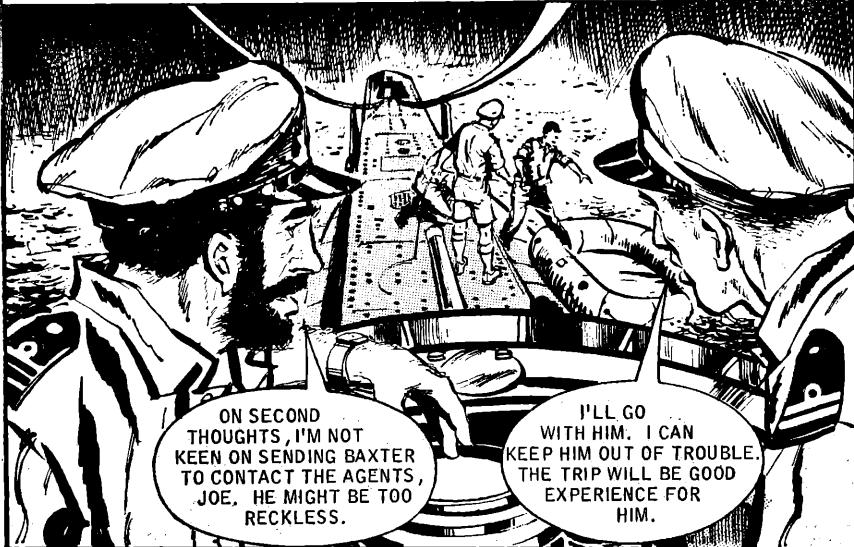


IT WAS THE SORT OF MISSION FOR WHICH A SUBMARINE WAS WELL-SUITED - BUT THERE WERE STILL MANY DANGERS.

THE TWO AGENTS WERE BRITISH ARMY OFFICERS WHO HAD KNOWN THE ISLANDS WELL BEFORE THE WAR. THINGS HAD BEEN GETTING HOT AND THEY HAD TO GET OUT FAST.



TWO NIGHTS LATER RAPIER SURFACED OFF THE ISLAND OF MANOLA.



AS A SIGNAL LAMP FLASHED BRIEFLY FROM THE SHORE, THEY SET OUT IN THEIR DINGHY.



AS THEY NEARED THE BEACH JOE PRICE SUDDENLY REALISED WHAT WAS WRONG.

THAT LAMP'S FLASHING FROM THE JUNGLE, NOT THE BEACH, AND THAT'S NOT WHAT WE ARRANGED. GET BACK TO THE SUBMARINE!

THAT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING. THEY MIGHT HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD THE ARRANGEMENTS.

PRICE IGNORED ROBIN'S PROTESTS, AND THEY RETURNED TO THE RAPIER WHERE TIGER LISTENED GRIMLY TO THEIR STORY. THEN ROBIN SPOKE UP...

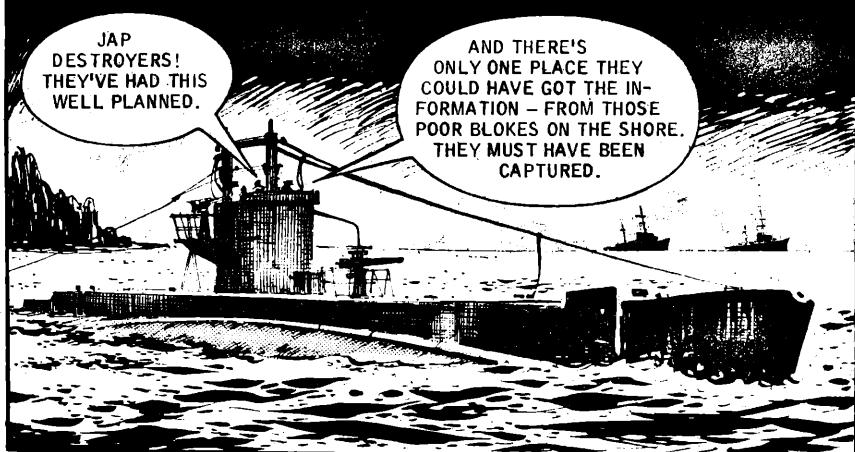
LET ME GO BACK ON MY OWN, SIR. I'LL SOON SEE IF THEY'RE THE CHAPS WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MEETING.

NO, WE'LL HEAD FOR OPEN SEA. IF IT'S A GENUINE MISTAKE WE CAN COME BACK TOMORROW AS ARRANGED. IF NOT, WE MIGHT SPARK OFF SOME REACTION.

THEY GOT THEIR REACTION. AS THE SUB MOVED OFF, A FLARE ROSE FROM THE BEACH AND A MACHINE GUN CHATTERED.



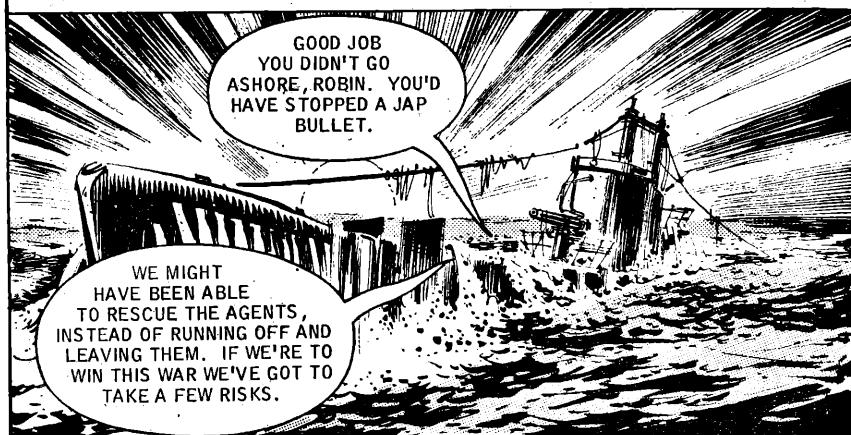
JOE WAS ONLY TOO RIGHT. AS THEY CLEARED THE ISLAND AND THE FLARE BURNED OUT, THEY SIGHTED TWO DARK SHAPES APPROACHING OUT OF THE GLOOM.



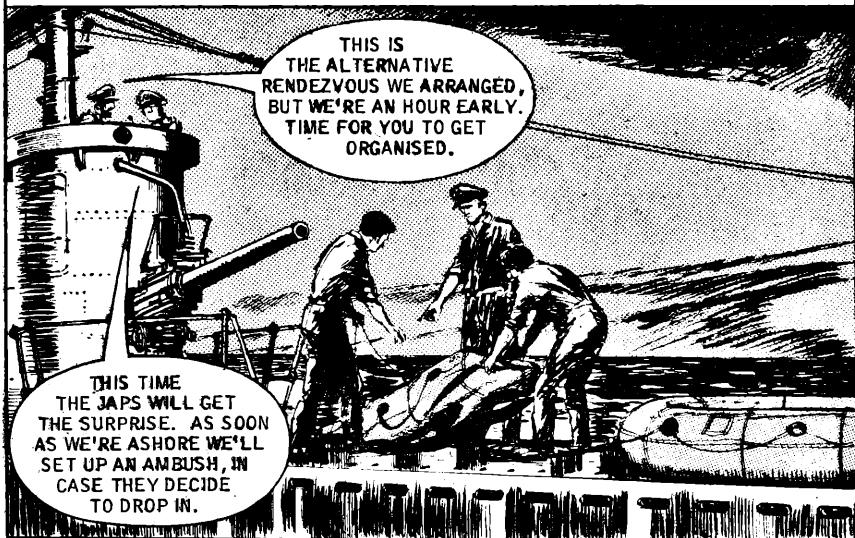
AS THEY SUBMERGED, THE JAP DESTROYERS MOVED IN WITH DEPTH CHARGES, BUT NONE WERE ON TARGET.



AN HOUR LATER THEY WERE CLEAR, BUT ROBIN WAS DISAPPOINTED. HE COULD NOT SEE THAT HIS RECKLESSNESS WOULD HAVE LED THEM INTO A TRAP AND THIS MADE HIM ANGRY WHEN PRICE SPOKE JOKINGLY.



BUT TIGER WAS NOT BEATEN. HE MADE A FURTHER ATTEMPT TO CONTACT THE AGENTS THE FOLLOWING NIGHT.



AS THE DINGHIES MOVED OFF, RAPIER HEADED OUT TO SEA AGAIN.



AFTER THEY HAD LANDED ON THE BEACH, JOE LAID A CAREFUL AMBUSH.



BUT THEY DID NOT HAVE LONG TO WAIT. A FILE OF JAPANESE SOLDIERS MOVED THROUGH THE DARKNESS TOWARDS THEM.



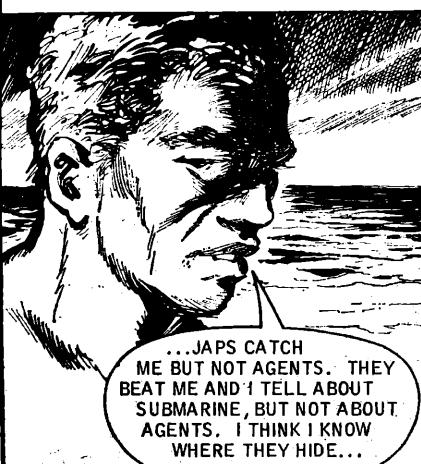
AS THE JAPS DREW LEVEL THE BRITISH OPENED UP.



NOT ONE JAP HAD A CHANCE TO SHOOT BEFORE A BRITISH BULLET CLAIMED HIM.



THE NATIVE HAD BEEN THE BRITISH AGENTS' GUIDE.



SO IT WAS AS THEY HAD THOUGHT, AND SOMEHOW THEY DID BELIEVE THE NATIVE WHO HAD SUFFERED SO BADLY AT THE JAPS' HANDS. AND PRICE DECIDED TO SPLIT HIS FORCE, IN ORDER TO KEEP TIGER CASEY INFORMED.



JOE REPEATED HIS ORDER CURTLY BEFORE MOVING OFF WITH HIS MEN AND THE NATIVE GUIDE.



AS ARRANGED, THE SUBMARINE SURFACED JUST BEFORE DAWN, AND ROBIN'S SIGNAL WAS SEEN.



ROBIN WAS NOT PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH HIS ORDERS AS HE LED HIS MEN AWAY FROM THE OPEN BEACH INTO COVER.



DETERMINED TO GET SOME ACTION, ROBIN MOVED OFF ALONE, LEAVING HIS TWO SAILORS.



PASSING THE DEAD JAPS, ROBIN PICKED UP TWO JAP GRENADES.



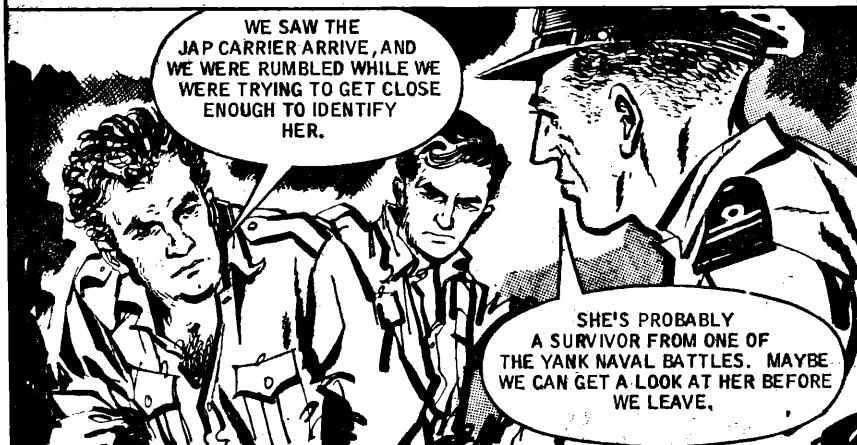
MEANWHILE JOE AND HIS MEN HAD PENETRATED DEEP INTO THE JUNGLE IN SEARCH OF THE TWO AGENTS.



THE GUIDE HAD GUESSED RIGHT. AND AFTER THEIR INITIAL SURPRISE THE TWO AGENTS WERE DELIGHTED TO SEE THEIR RESCUERS.



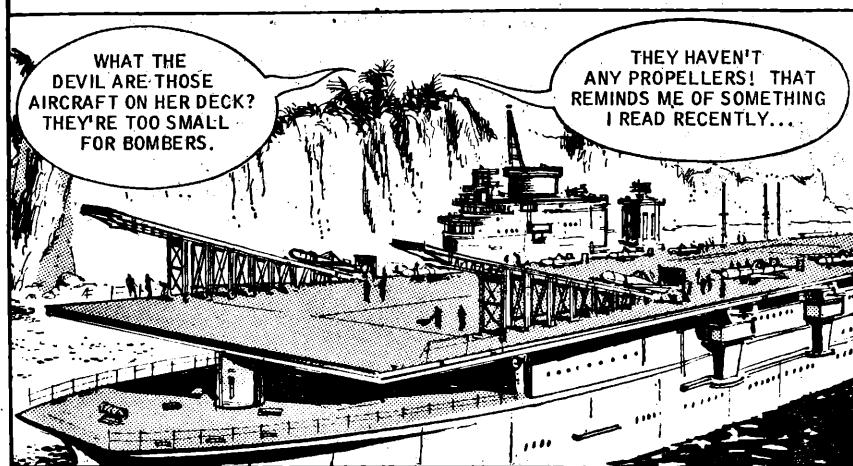
THEY EXPLAINED THAT THERE WAS A JAP AIRCRAFT CARRIER VISITING THE ISLAND AND WAS AT PRESENT AT ANCHOR OFF THE NORTHERN SHORE.



SO THEY SET OUT TO EXAMINE THE CARRIER WHICH WAS ANCHORED IN A SECRET COVE.

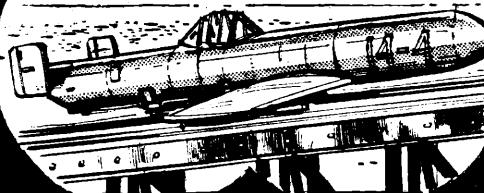


THEY FOUND A PLACE FROM WHICH THEY WERE ALMOST LOOKING DOWN ONTO THE CARRIER'S DECKS.



AS PRICE STUDIED THE CARRIER HE REMEMBERED WHERE HE HAD SEEN THOSE STRANGE, SINISTER AIRCRAFT BEFORE.

THEY'RE
SUICIDE PLANES,
POWERED BY ROCKETS. I'VE
SEEN DETAILS OF THEM IN THE
INTELLIGENCE PAMPHLETS.
KAMIKAZE PILOTS GUIDE
THEM ONTO THEIR
TARGET.



THE BAKAS, AS THEY WERE NAMED, WERE INDEED SUICIDE PLANES. FORMERLY THEY HAD BEEN RELEASED FROM BOMBERS CARRYING THEM BELOW THEIR FUSELAGE, BUT NOW IT SEEMED THE JAPS COULD LAUNCH THEM DIRECTLY.

MEANWHILE ON BOARD THE CARRIER, THE JAPANESE WERE GOING ABOUT TESTING THE AIRCRAFT.

THE CATAPULT
HAS BEEN REPAIRED,
SIR, BUT WE ARE NOT
SURE IT WILL WORK
PERFECTLY.

BUT WE
CAN BE SURE. I
SHALL TEST IT IN MY
AIRCRAFT. HAVE IT READY
WHILE I REPORT TO THE
COMMANDER.

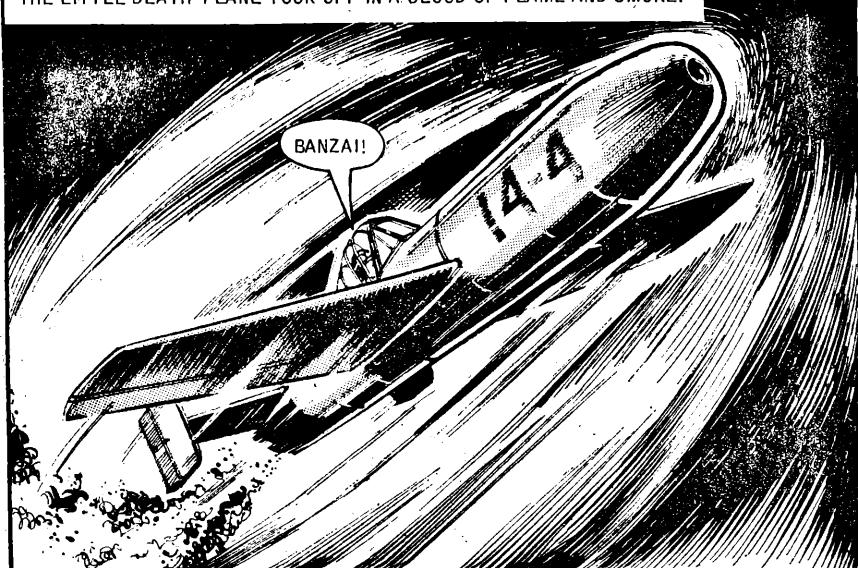
THE JAPANESE PILOT SOON OBTAINED PERMISSION FOR HIS TEST FLIGHT AND WAS STRAPPED INTO THE COCKPIT WITHIN MINUTES.



THE HIDDEN WATCHERS GREW EXCITED AS THEY SAW THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE FLIGHT.



THE LITTLE DEATH-PLANE TOOK OFF IN A CLOUD OF FLAME AND SMOKE.



AFTER A FEW MINUTES IN THE AIR THE BAKA GLIDED DOWN TO A BUMPY LANDING ON THE SANDY BEACH AT THE END OF THE COVE.



THE PILOTS OF THE SUICIDE PLANES WERE ALL VOLUNTEERS, BELIEVING THAT TO DIE FOR THE EMPEROR WAS THE HIGHEST HONOUR THEY COULD ACHIEVE.

AS THEY WATCHED THE JAP PILOT CLIMB FROM THE BAKA COCKPIT JOE PRICE KNEW THAT THEY HAD SEEN MORE THAN ENOUGH.

WE MUST GET BACK AND TELL THE SKIPPER. THIS IS HOT STUFF.

IT LOOKS AS IF THEY'RE PLANNING SOMETHING BIG. THE QUESTION IS - WHAT?

SUDDENLY JOE PRICE REALISED THE ANSWER.

OUR FLEET IS ASSEMBLING OFF DARWIN. IT WOULD BE A PERFECT TARGET FOR THESE FLYING BOMBS!

SWIFTLY THEY SET OFF FOR THE BEACH.

HEY, HOW LONG WILL THE CARRIER STAY HERE?

JUDGING BY THE ACTIVITY, I'D SAY THEY'LL BE SAILING WITHIN A DAY.

THEY WERE BLISSFULLY UNAWARE THAT DOWN AT THE BEACH ROBIN WAS MAKING PLANS OF HIS OWN.



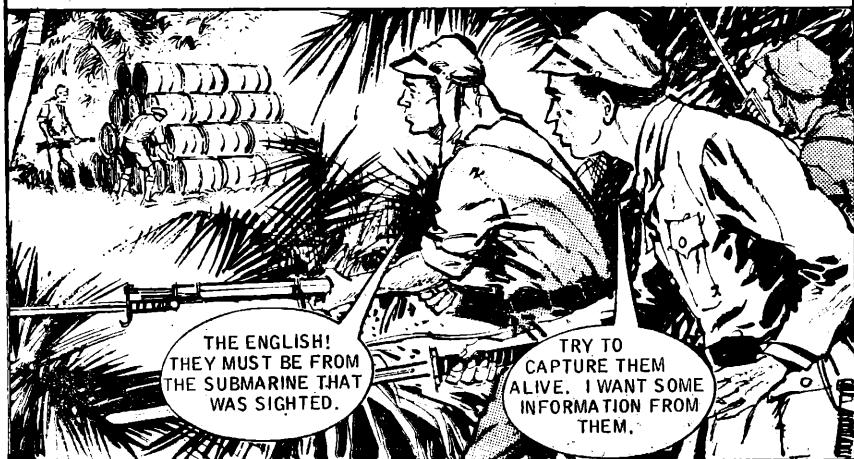
BUT THE TWO SAILORS WEREN'T TOO KEEN TO GET INVOLVED IN ANY OF ROBIN'S WILD SCHEMES.



III. FUEL DUMP APPEARED TO BE DESERTED AS THEY APPROACHED.



BUT AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, A JAPANESE PATROL WAS IN THE AREA, MAKING A ROUTINE CHECK OF THE SCATTERED DUMPS.



BUT ONE OF THE BRITISH SAILORS HAD BEEN OUT OF SIGHT OF THE OVER-CONFIDENT JAPS.



AS HIS MEN PREPARED TO RETREAT, ROBIN FORGOT ABOUT HIS BOOBY TRAP AND CHUCKED BOTH GRENADES AT THE STACKED FUEL DRUMS.



AS THE GRENADES EXPLODED THEY SCATTERED BURNING FUEL FAR AND WIDE.

AAGH!

THAT'LL
GIVE THEM SOME-
THING TO THINK
ABOUT.

BUT THE FIRING AND EXPLOSION HAD ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF MORE JAPANESE.

BLIMEY,
THEY'RE AHEAD
OF US AS WELL!

WE'RE NOT
FAR FROM THE BEACH
NOW. COME ON, KEEP
GOING. WE MUST
REACH IT.

THEY REACHED THE BEACH JUST AHEAD OF THEIR PURSUITERS.



NO SIGN
OF RAPIER, SIR.
IT'S AN HOUR BEFORE
SHE'S DUE.

NO POINT
GOING ANY FURTHER.
WE'LL STAY AND FIGHT
IT OUT.

JOE PRICE AND HIS MEN HEARD THE
SHOOTING AS THEY APPROACHED THE
BEACH.



SOUNDS
LIKE TROUBLE,
WE'D BETTER SEE
IF WE CAN
HELP.

PRICE AND OAKES WENT ON AHEAD TO FIND ROBIN AND HIS TWO MEN PINNED DOWN BY THE JAP FIRE.



THE JAPS
HAVE GOT THEM
PINNED DOWN.

NOT FOR
LONG. LET'S
GET STUCK
IN!

THE UNEXPECTED ARRIVAL OF PRICE AND HIS MEN STARTLED THE JAPANESE. WHO SCATTERED BEFORE THE VOLLEY OF FIRE.



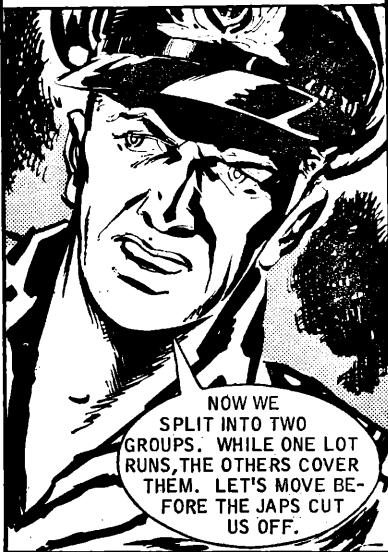
THE CONFUSION ENABLED ROBIN AND HIS TWO MEN TO JOIN UP WITH THEIR RESCUERS.



BUT THEY WERE BY NO MEANS OUT OF TROUBLE.



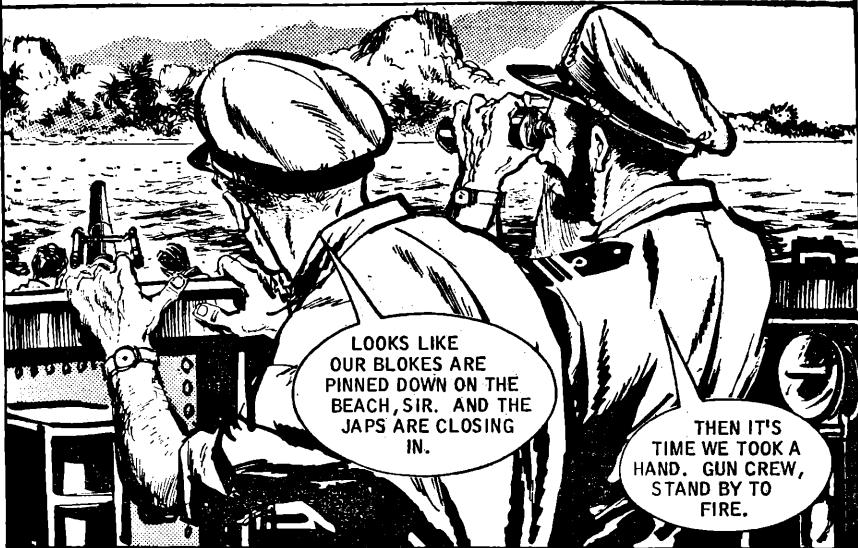
PRICE WENT ON BEFORE ROBIN COULD PROTEST.



FORTUNATELY TIGER CASEY HAD BEEN KEEPING A PERISCOPE WATCH ON THE BEACH.



RAPIER ROSE TO THE SURFACE AND TIGER SAW THE WHOLE SCENE BEFORE HIM.



THE SHELLS FROM RAPIER CAME JUST IN TIME
TO BREAK UP A DETERMINED JAPANESE ATTACK.



WHEN PRICE SPOTTED THE RAPIER, HE AND HIS MEN DRAGGED THE DINGHIES FROM THEIR HIDING PLACE.

IT'S SURPRISING
HOW A FEW SHELLS PUT
THE JAPS OFF THEIR AIM.
COME ON, LET'S GET
AFLOAT.

QUICKER
THE BETTER,
I'D SAY.



THEY RACED FOR THE SUBMARINE, WITH BULLETS SPRAYING AROUND THEM.

GOOD JOB
OUR BLOKES ARE
COVERING US. WE'D MAKE
NICE TARGETS OUT
HERE.

I HOPE THE
JAPS HAVEN'T CALLED
UP THEIR DESTROYERS. IF
THEY HAVE, THEY WON'T BE
BOthering TOO MUCH
WITH US NOW.



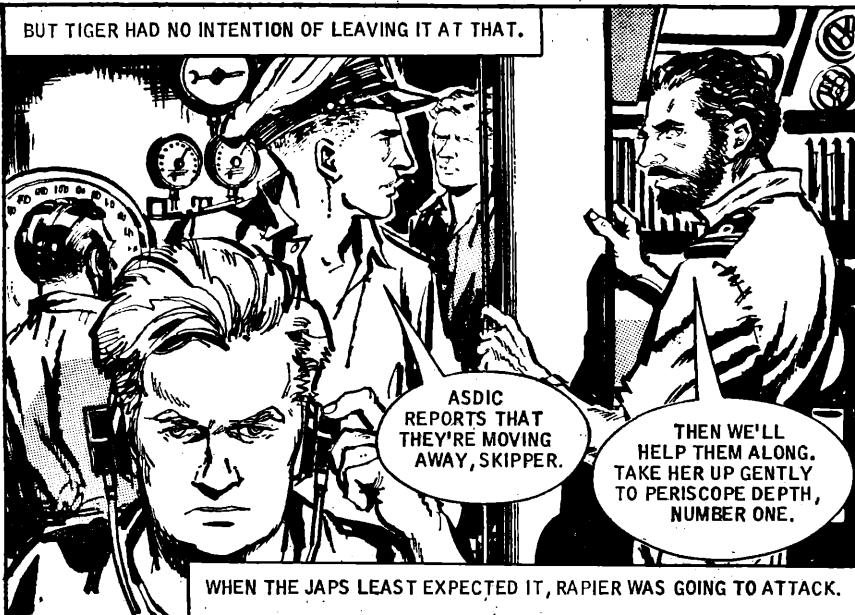
THEY HURRIED ON BOARD AND PRICE GASPED OUT HIS NEWS ABOUT THE CARRIER TO TIGER.



AS RAPIER DIVED, THE DESTROYERS SHOWED THEIR TEETH. BUT IT WAS TOO LATE NOW.



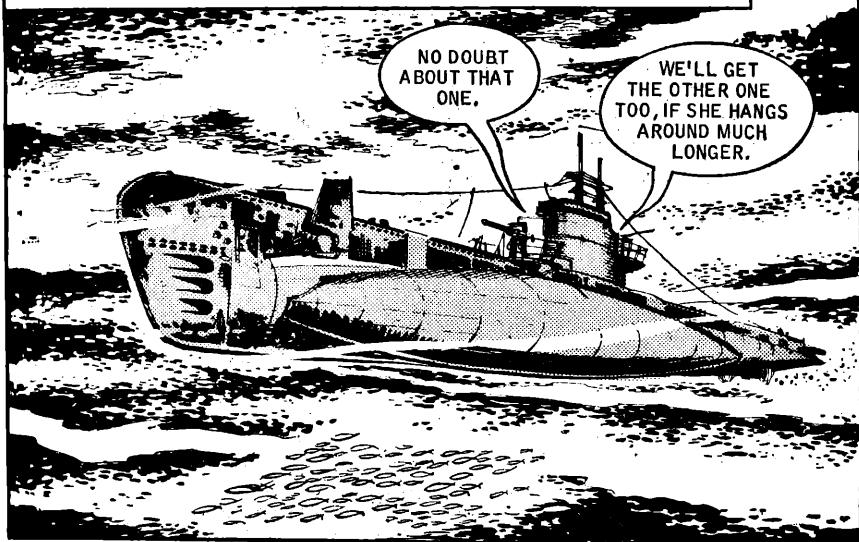
BUT TIGER HAD NO INTENTION OF LEAVING IT AT THAT.



RAPIER'S PERISCOPE BROKE THE SURFACE, AND A TORPEDO SLICED THROUGH THE WAVES TOWARDS THE NEAREST DESTROYER.



ABOARD THE RAPIER, CHEERS RESOUNDED THROUGH THE SUBMARINE AS THEY HEARD THE EXPLOSION.

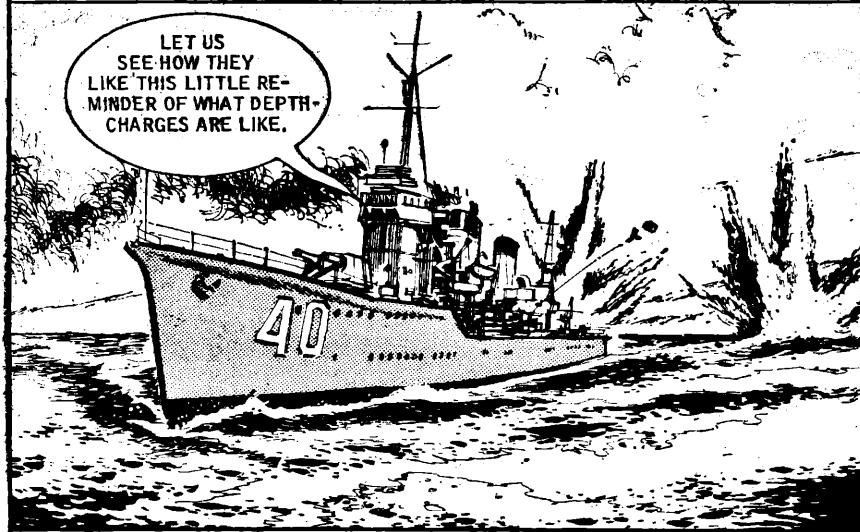


BUT THE SKIPPER OF THE SECOND JAPANESE WARSHIP WAS NO BEGINNER.



THE BRITISH DID NOT REALISE THEY HAD CHOSEN TO CROSS SWORDS WITH THE RENOWNED COMMANDER SHAMOTA, A HIGHLY-SUCCESSFUL SUB-KILLER.

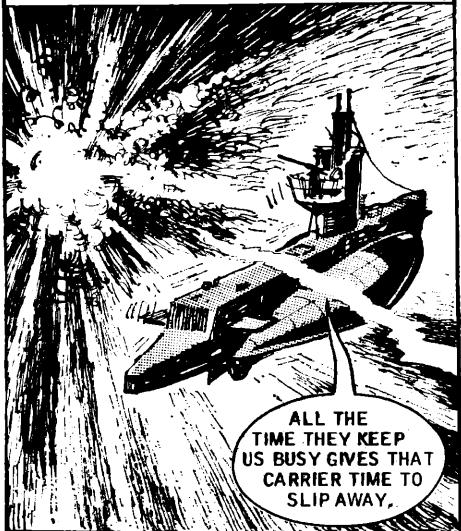
THE JAP DESTROYER TURNED SHARPLY AND INCREASED SPEED. AS SHE PASSED
OVER RAPIER -



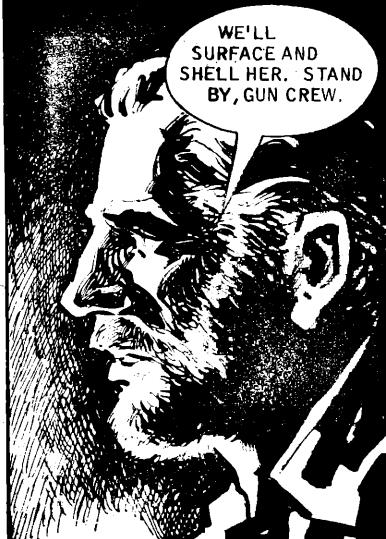
THE DEPTH-CHARGES WERE CLOSE ENOUGH TO SHAKE THE CONFIDENCE OF SOME OF RAPIER'S CREW.



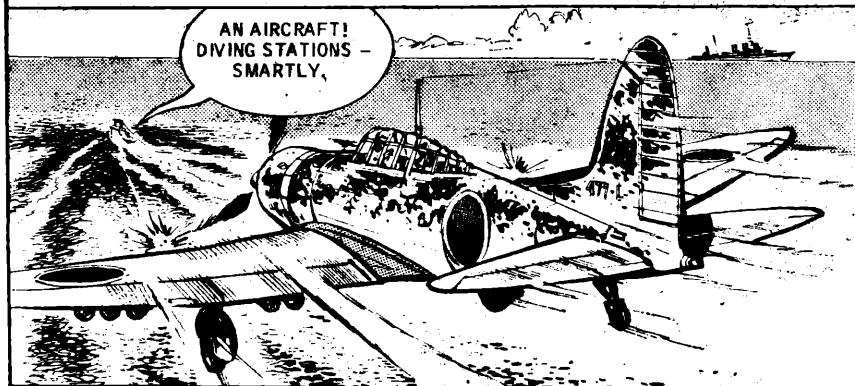
WHENEVER RAPIER TRIED TO CREEP AWAY SHE WAS SHAKEN BY VIOLENT DEPTH-CHARGE EXPLOSIONS.



TIGER DECIDED THAT ATTACK WAS THE BEST FORM OF DEFENCE.

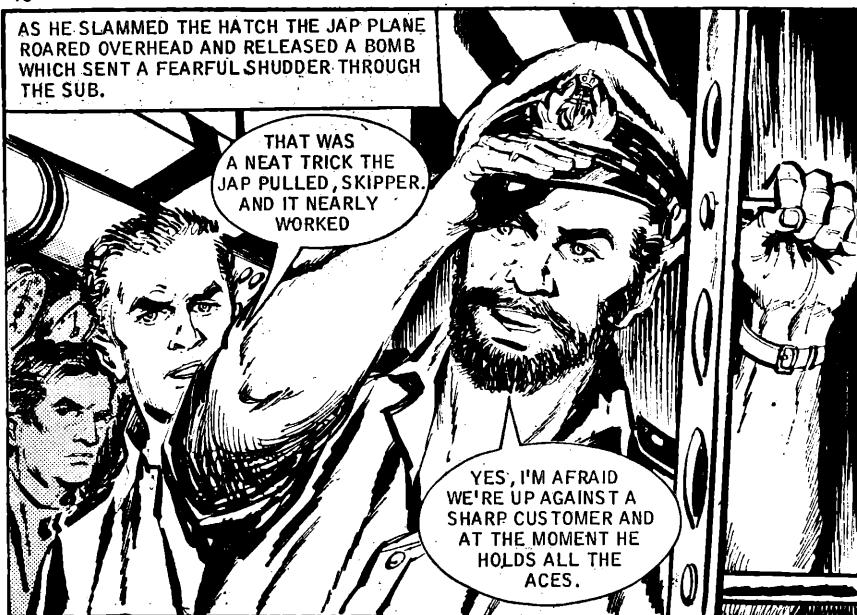


IT WAS A DANGEROUS PLOY, AND THIS TIME TIGER HAD NOT JUDGED THE RISKS WELL ENOUGH, FOR A JAP AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN RADIOED TO HELP.



ALMOST TOO LATE TIGER REALISED THAT HE HAD BEHAVED JUST AS HIS WILY ENEMY HAD INTENDED.

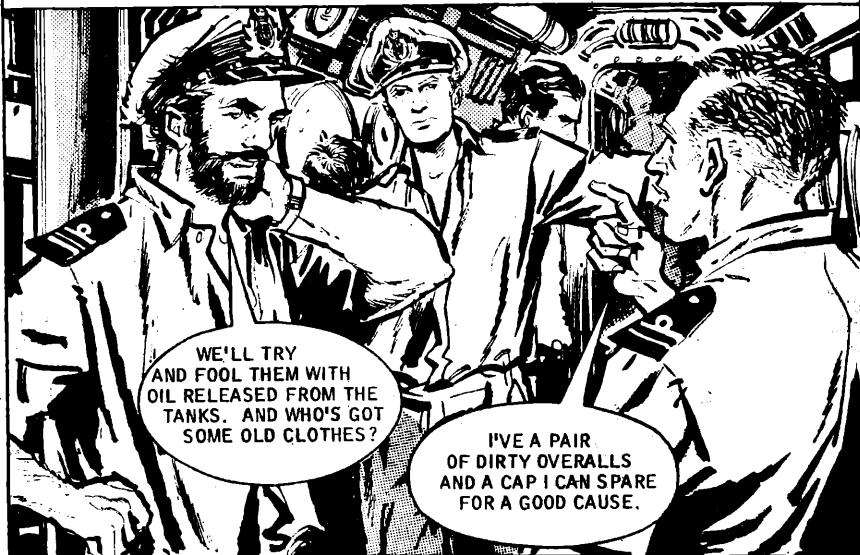
AS HE SLAMMED THE HATCH THE JAP PLANE ROARED OVERHEAD AND RELEASED A BOMB WHICH SENT A FEARFUL SHUDDER THROUGH THE SUB.



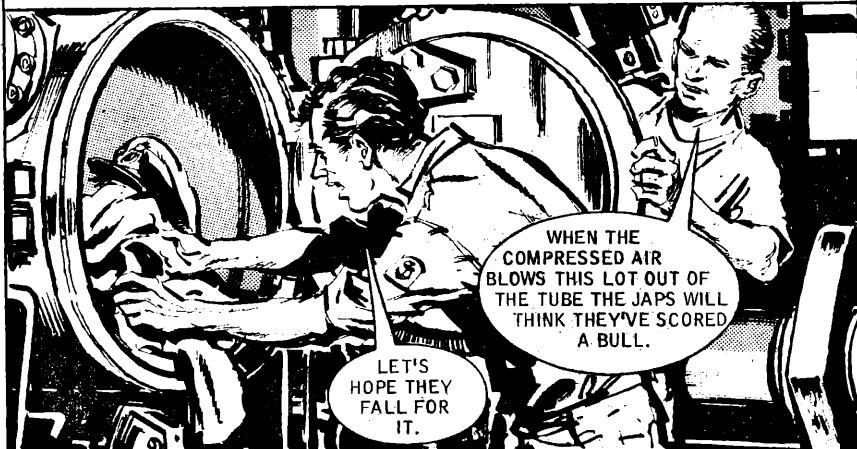
THE MERCILESS HAMMERING WAS RESUMED, WITH THE AIRCRAFT JOINING IN.



TIGER LOOKED GRIM AND THOUGHTFUL AS A SERIES OF SHATTERING EXPLOSIONS ROCKED HIS VESSEL.



AS OIL WAS RELEASED FROM THE TANKS THE OLD CLOTHING WAS STUFFED INTO
A TORPEDO TUBE.



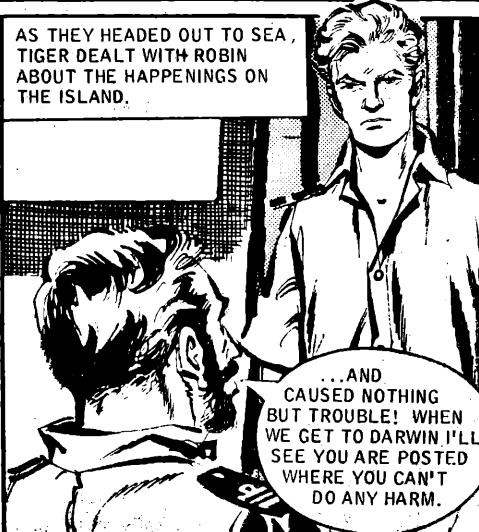
AFTER THE DEPTH-CHARGE EXPLOSIONS THE EVIDENCE LOOKED VERY CONVINCING TO THE WAITING JAPS.



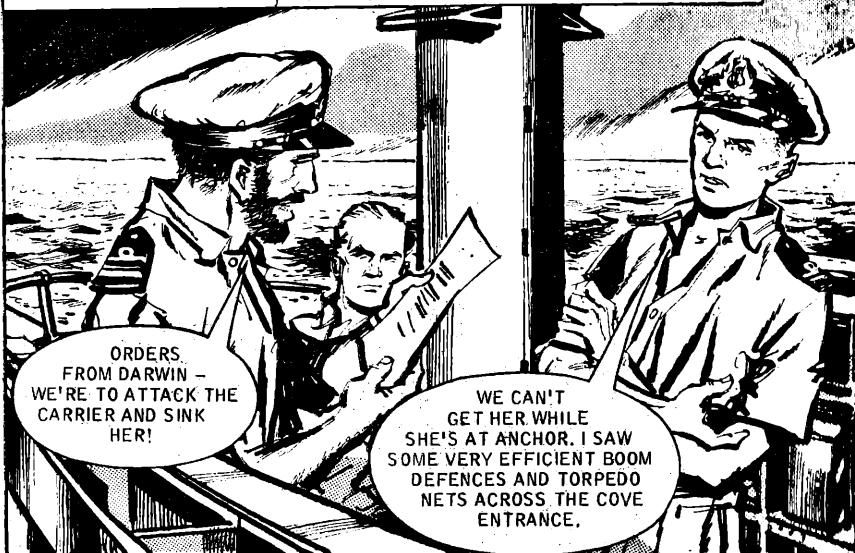
TIGER WATCHED WITH RELIEF AS THE DESTROYER HEADED AWAY.



AS THEY HEADED OUT TO SEA, TIGER DEALT WITH ROBIN ABOUT THE HAPPENINGS ON THE ISLAND.



IT WAS A BITTER, CRESTFALLEN ROBIN WHO WENT ABOUT HIS DUTIES AS THEY SURFACED IN A SAFE LOCATION TO AWAIT A REPLY FROM DARWIN.



IF THE CARRIER COULD NOT BE ATTACKED AT ANCHOR, THERE WAS ONLY ONE ALTERNATIVE.

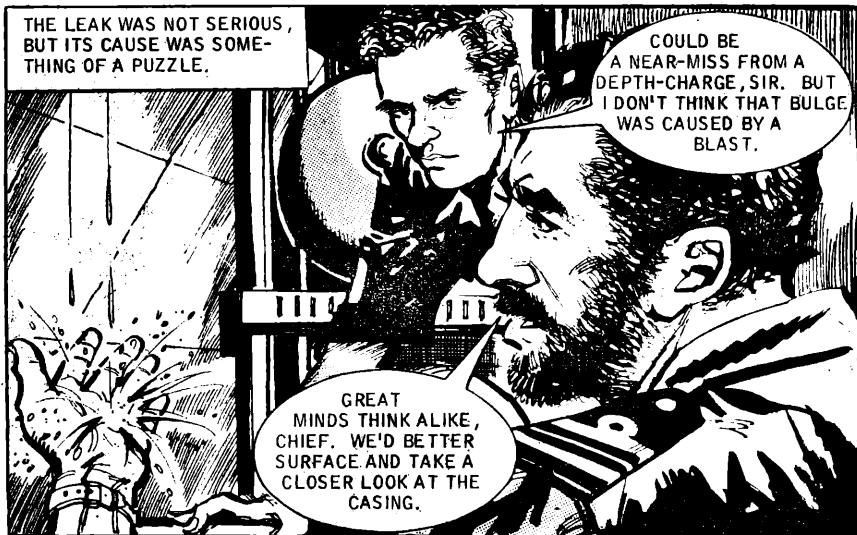
WE SHALL
HAVE TO WAIT OUT-
SIDE THE COVE AND AMBUSH
HER. AND THAT'S EXACTLY
WHERE THE JAPS WILL
EXPECT TROUBLE.

PERHAPS NOT.
AFTER ALL, THEY THINK
WE'RE SUNK, AND WE KNOW
THEIR TARGET IS DARWIN SO
WE CAN FIX THE CARRIER'S
COURSE PRETTY
ACCURATELY.

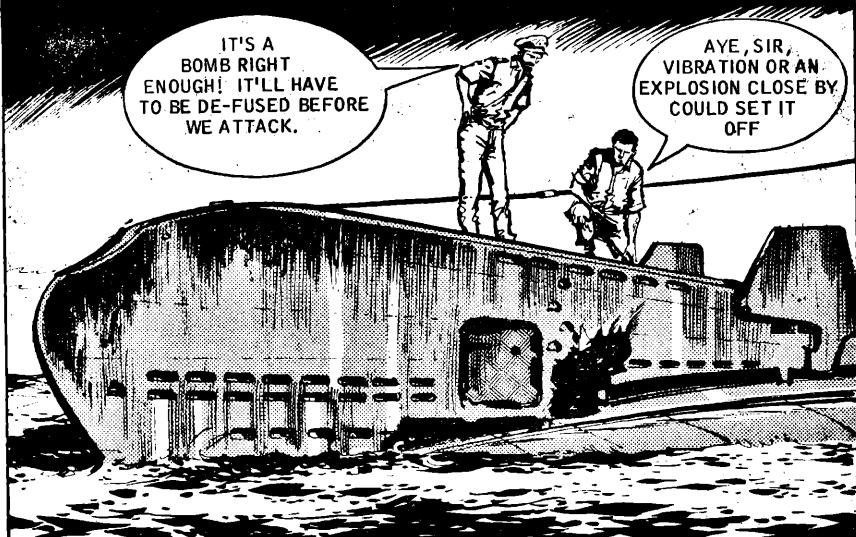
THEY DESCENDED TO PERISCOPE DEPTH WHILE TIGER COMPLETED HIS PLANS TO AMBUSH THE JAP CARRIER.



THE LEAK WAS NOT SERIOUS, BUT ITS CAUSE WAS SOMETHING OF A PUZZLE.



THEY SURFACED - AND THEIR WORST FEARS BECAME REALITY WHEN THEY FOUND AN UNEXPLODED JAP BOMB WEDGED BETWEEN THE CASING AND THE PRESSURE HULL.



THE APPROACH OF DARKNESS WAS IN THEIR FAVOUR, FOR IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT THE CARRIER WOULD SAIL AT NIGHT FROM THE NARROW COVE.

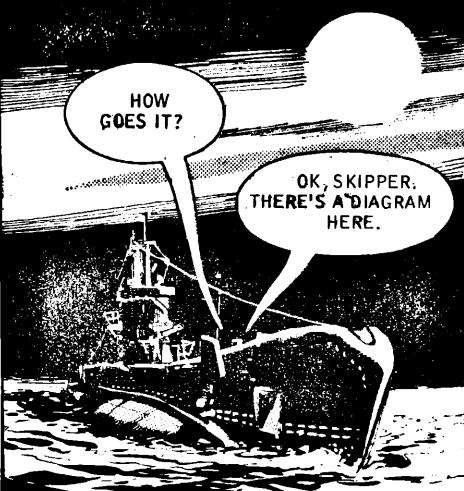


CASEY NODDED GRIMLY AT PRICE'S OFFER. HE KNEW THIS WAS A JOB FOR A VOLUNTEER.

ROBIN LISTENED SILENTLY. HE KNEW HE WAS BEST QUALIFIED TO DEAL WITH THE BOMB, BUT...



TO SAVE TIME, CASEY HEADED RAPIER FOR THE ISLAND WHILE PRICE READ UP ON JAP BOMB-FUSES.



THEY HOVED NEAR THE ISLAND, CONCEALED BY DARKNESS AND A SEA MIST. THEN PRICE BEGAN HIS DANGEROUS TASK.

TELL THE SKIPPER I WON'T NEED BREATHING GEAR. THE BOMB HAS TWISTED AND IS NOSE-UPWARDS. I CAN WORK ON IT WITHOUT DIVING.



THE MINUTES TICKED BY, AND JOE WORKED STEADILY. PART OF THE CASING HAD TO BE CUT AWAY SO THAT HE COULD WORK ON THE FUSE. BUT AFTER HALF AN HOUR—

I'M BEATEN.
I'VE GOT THE CAP
OFF, BUT THE FUSE IS
A TYPE THAT ISN'T IN
THE BOOK.

CONFUD IT, HE CAN'T RISK
TAMPERING WITH IT. THAT
BOMB COULD BLOW OUR BOWS
OFF, AND SET OFF THE
TORPEDOES.

TO ADD TO THEIR TROUBLES, DAWN WAS APPROACHING FAST, AND THERE WERE SIGNS OF LIFE IN THE COVE.

ASDIC
REPORTS ENGINE
NOISES FROM INSIDE
THE COVE, SIR.

THEN THAT
SETTLES IT. WE CAN'T
LET THAT CARRIER ESCAPE.
WE SHALL HAVE TO RISK
THE BOMB EXPLODING
WHEN WE FIRE OUR
TORPEDOES.

ROBIN COULD STAND IT NO LONGER.
HE FACED CASEY SQUARELY.

I DID AN EXPLOSIVES
COURSE, SIR. I'LL TACKLE
THE FUSE.

THERE'S
NO TIME - THE
CARRIER'S ON ITS
WAY.

SUBMERGE,
AND I'LL FIX IT UNDER-
WATER. IF NECESSARY YOU
CAN FIRE THE TORPEDOES
WHILE I'M OUTSIDE.

IF WE'RE
DEPTH-CHARGED
YOU'D BE SQUASHED
LIKE A FLY...
AND...

TIGER WEIGHED UP THE ODDS, AND HE RECOGNISED THE DETERMINED LOOK IN THE
YOUNG MAN'S EYES.

ALL RIGHT,
LAD, GIVE IT A TRY.
BUT TIE YOURSELF TO
THE HULL WITH A
LIFELINE.

AND PLUG
IN THE PORTABLE
RADIO HEADSET TO THE
HULL SOCKET. THEN WE
CAN KEEP IN TOUCH
WITH YOU.

SWIFTLY ROBIN CHANGED INTO A FROGMAN'S SUIT AND FOR A MOMENT HE ALMOST PANICKED AS HE FELT THE SUBMARINE SINKING BENEATH HIM.

DIVING STATIONS. DOWN TO PERISCOPE DEPTH.

I'VE GOT TO GO THROUGH WITH IT. EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON ME NOW...

AND PRICE KEPT IN TOUCH WITH ROBIN FROM THE CONTROL ROOM BY THE RADIO LINK.

ROBIN SAYS HE'S GOT THE MEASURE OF THE FUSE, AND HE THINKS HE CAN RELEASE IT. HE'S TRYING NOW.

LET'S HOPE HE CAN, BECAUSE THE CARRIER'S JUST LEFT THE COVE AND IT'S HEADING THIS WAY!

CAUTIOUSLY THE CARRIER LADEN WITH THE DEADLY SUICIDE AIRCRAFT STEAMED OUT INTO THE OPEN SEA.



SHE'S
HEADING OUT ON
EXACTLY THE COURSE WE
CALCULATED. ONLY ONE
DESTROYER FOR ESCORT....
I BET THEY INTEND TO
RENDEZVOUS WITH
OTHERS LATER.

MEANWHILE, AS THEY WAITED FOR THE CARRIER TO APPROACH, ROBIN WORKED AS
HE HAD NEVER WORKED BEFORE.



YOU'LL
HAVE TO STAY
OUTSIDE THE SUB FOR
A WHILE, ROBIN. OUR
TARGET'S IN
SIGHT.

I'VE GOT
THE FUSE OUT, AND
THE BOMB IS SAFE. LET
ME KNOW WHEN I CAN
COME ABOARD.

ONLY PREPARED TO FIRE, KNOWING THAT IF HE MISSED AND THEY WERE DEPTH-CHARGED IT WOULD MEAN ALMOST CERTAIN DEATH FOR ROBIN

TARGET
BEARING OH-NINE-
FOUR, RANGE FOUR
THOUSAND. YOUR
ANGLE ONE THREE,
SKIPPER.

ANGLE
ONE THREE. NIGHT.
STAND BY ALL FUMIGATION
TWO-SECOND SPIN AD
STAND BY

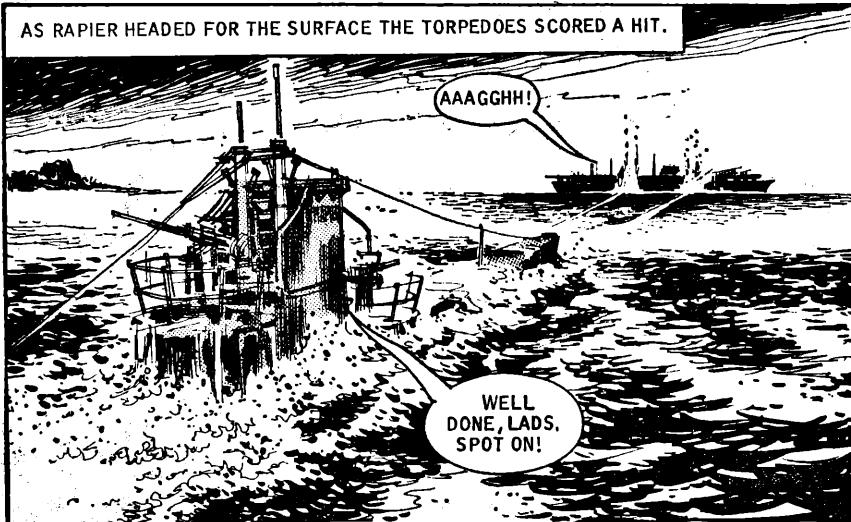
CLINGING DESPERATELY TO THE HULL, ROBIN FELT THE CONCUSSION AS THE TORPEDOES WERE FIRED.

OOO! MY
EARS ARE POPPING.
I MUST BE THE FIRST
BLOKE TO HAVE WATCHED
LIVE TORPEDOES FIRED
IN ACTION - FROM THE
OUTSIDE.

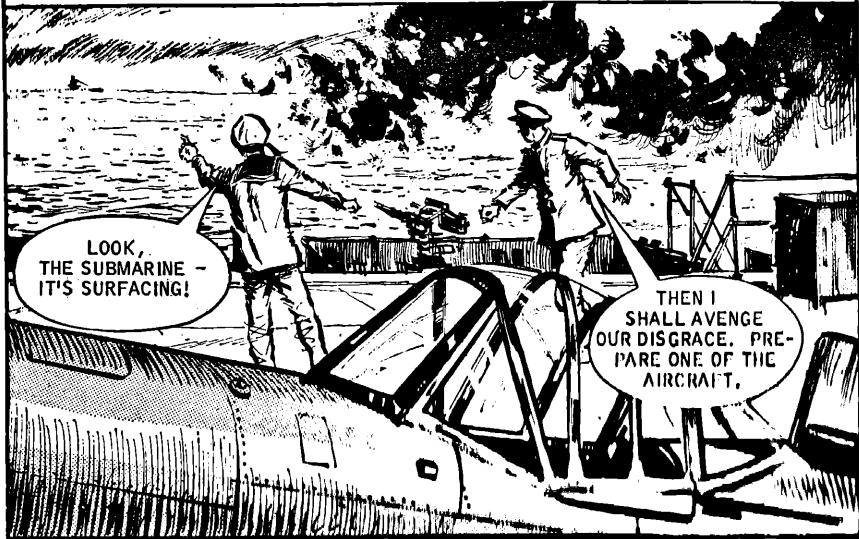
IN THE CONTROL ROOM, TIGER MADE ANOTHER SNAP DECISION.



AS RAPIER HEADED FOR THE SURFACE THE TORPEDOES SCORED A HIT.



THE BLOW WAS A MORTAL ONE, BUT AS THE HUGE CRAFT LISTED AND BEGAN TO SINK, THE JAP CAPTAIN HAD ONLY ONE THING IN MIND - VENGEANCE.



EACH OF THE CATAPULTS ON BOARD THE CARRIER HAD A SUICIDE PLANE IN POSITION READY TO BE LAUNCHED.



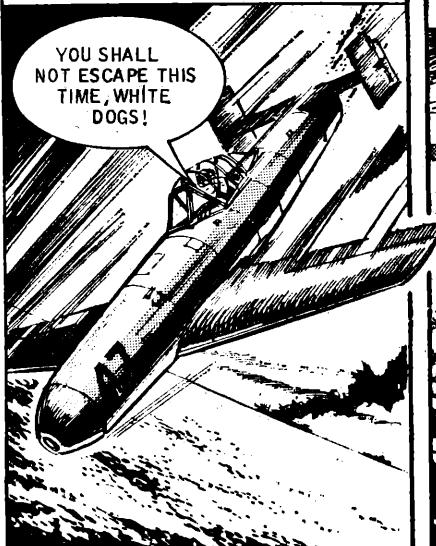
THE ROCKETS FLARED AS THE BAKA LEFT ITS CATAULPT LIKE A BOLT OF LIGHTNING SHOOTING UPWARDS.



THE SUICIDE PLANE TURNED TO ATTACK AS ROBIN, AIDED BY PRICE, PREPARED TO GO BELOW.



THE JAPANESE PILOT AIMED HIS AIRCRAFT AT THE PLUNGING SUBMARINE.



AS THE TWO MEN SCRAMBLED FRANTICALLY DOWN THE LADDER, THE BAKA DIVED STEEPER.



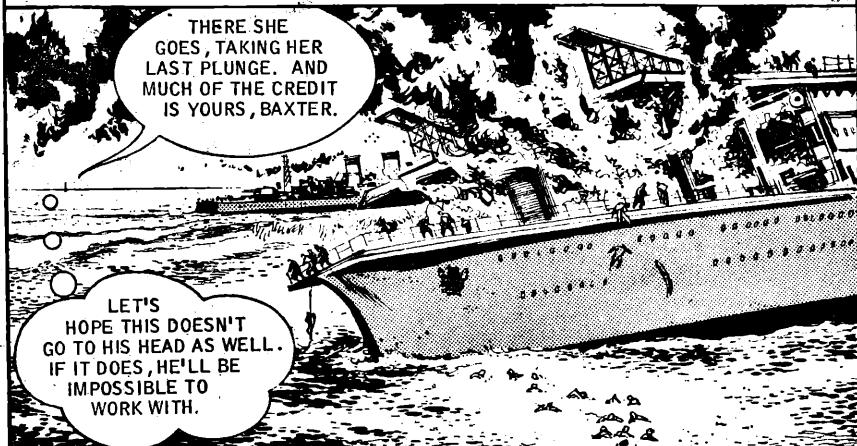
TIGER'S JUDGEMENT HAD BEEN PERFECT. THE FLYING BOMB PLUNGED FROM ITS DEATH DIVE INTO THE SEA, EXPLODING HARMLESSLY AWAY FROM THE RAPIER.



AS TIGER EXPLAINED, THE JAP PILOT HAD MISJUDGED HIS DIVE AT THE SUBMERGED SUBMARINE.



THEY ONLY TOOK TIME TO HAVE ONE LAST LOOK AT THE CARRIER SINKING WITH HER DEADLY LOAD. THE ESCORT DESTROYER WAS TOO BUSY TAKING OFF SURVIVORS TO BOTHER WITH THEM.



BUT THERE WAS NO FEAR OF ROBIN ALLOWING THE GLORY TO GO TO HIS HEAD. HE HAD LEARNED THE HARD WAY THAT TEAMWORK MATTERED MORE THAN INDIVIDUALS. AND HE WAS PROUD OF HIS PLACE IN RAPIER'S CREW AS THEY MADE BACK FOR FRIENDLY WATERS.



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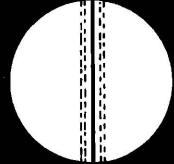
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